

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 17

Introduced by Assembly Member Swanson

May 5, 2009

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 17—Relative to HIV/AIDS health disparities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AJR 17, as introduced, Swanson. HIV/AIDS health disparities.

This measure would urge the President of the United States, the United States Congress, and the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to take specified actions in regards to health disparities, particularly as they relate to HIV/AIDS funding.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, The devastating impact of HIV/AIDS in
2 communities of color continues to grow, with the federal Centers
3 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reporting that an
4 estimated 71 percent of AIDS cases that were diagnosed as of the
5 year 2006 occurred among ethnic and racial minorities; and
6 WHEREAS, African Americans made up 13 percent of the
7 United States population in the year 2000 Census, yet the CDC
8 determined that African Americans accounted for 49 percent of
9 new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2005; and
10 WHEREAS, Of the estimated 18,849 people under 25 years of
11 age diagnosed with HIV/AIDS during the years of 2001 to 2004,
12 inclusive, 61 percent were African American. An estimated 79
13 percent of reported HIV cases for female adults and adolescents
14 through 2005 were African American and Latino women; and

1 WHEREAS, 178,585 cases of AIDS have been reported in
2 California as of May 31, 2008; and

3 WHEREAS, African Americans and Latinos in California have
4 contracted HIV/AIDS at rates that are disproportionately higher
5 than that of other minority populations in the state; and

6 WHEREAS, Latinos have accounted for 28 percent of all HIV
7 cases reported by name in California since April 2006; and

8 WHEREAS, African Americans make up 6 percent of
9 California's population, yet account for 19.4 percent of the state's
10 HIV/AIDS living cases; and

11 WHEREAS, African American women and Latino women in
12 California have accounted for approximately 69 percent of all new
13 HIV cases among women in the state since 2005; and

14 WHEREAS, The National Black Caucus of State Legislators
15 recognizes and is committed to solving the AIDS crisis in the
16 United States and around the world; and

17 WHEREAS, The Institute of Medicine (IOM) found that ethnic
18 and racial minorities tend to receive lower-quality health care
19 services and account for a greater share of the disease burden across
20 a broad range of diseases, including, but not limited to, HIV/AIDS.
21 The IOM also found that disparities in the quality of health care,
22 including HIV care, are associated with higher death rates among
23 ethnic and racial minorities; and

24 WHEREAS, The IOM concluded that the lack of health
25 insurance presents a major barrier to reducing health disparities,
26 and approximately half of the uninsured Americans are racial and
27 ethnic minorities, despite comprising only 37 percent of the
28 population. In addition, the IOM determined that culturally and
29 linguistically appropriate care can improve health outcomes and
30 increase patient compliance with treatment plans; and

31 WHEREAS, The United States Census Bureau projects that, by
32 2050, one-half of the United States' population will be persons of
33 color; the unchecked impact of health disparities will rapidly cause
34 our national experience with HIV/AIDS to assume epidemic
35 proportions; and

36 WHEREAS, The President of the United States, as an individual,
37 and the United States Congress, as an institution, are in a position
38 to redress the problem of health disparities and improve prevention
39 and treatment services for HIV/AIDS; and

1 WHEREAS, Since 1982, 30 medicines have been approved to
2 treat HIV and related conditions; 92 new medicines and vaccines
3 are currently in the pipeline, awaiting approval or in clinical trial
4 phases; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
6 *California, jointly*, That the Legislature of the State of California
7 urges the President to provide focused domestic leadership to
8 reduce health disparities, particularly as they relate to HIV/AIDS;
9 and be it further

10 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California urges
11 Congress to increase funding for state and local grant programs
12 authorized by the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources
13 Emergency Act of 1990, especially to ensure funding for initiatives
14 that provide culturally and linguistically competent prevention and
15 treatment programs; and be it further

16 *Resolved*, That the Legislature of the State of California calls
17 on the Congress and the United States Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services to ensure that AIDS Drug Assistance Program
19 funding counts toward an individual's out-of-pocket contributions
20 for Medicare beneficiaries enrolled in Part D, and to encourage
21 the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue
22 guidelines that require all states' Medicaid preferred drug lists
23 provide prompt access to HIV/AIDS treatments that are consistent
24 with established HIV treatment protocols; and be it further

25 *Resolved*, That Congress is urged to increase funding to the
26 United States Department of Health and Human Services and other
27 relevant agencies, including, but not limited to, the federal Centers
28 for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health
29 Resources and Services Administration, to implement the CDC's
30 National HIV Prevention Strategic Plan, to expand the Minority
31 AIDS Initiative to provide additional support to minority-serving
32 community-based organizations, to augment outreach through the
33 mobilization of groups that include, but are not limited to, civic
34 and social organizations, fraternities, and sororities, and HIV
35 testing efforts to target racial and ethnic minorities that are at a
36 higher risk of contracting HIV, to develop additional
37 evidence-based HIV prevention interventions that target ethnic
38 and racial minorities, and to improve HIV prevention and treatment
39 services for ethnic and racial minorities; and be it further

1 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
2 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
3 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
4 Majority Leader of the United States Senate, to each Senator and
5 Representative from California, to the State Department of Public
6 Health, the State Department of Health Care Services, and to the
7 author for appropriate distribution.

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